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ABSTRACT

This bibliography lists 75 items--books, articles, research, and magazines--dealing with stage lighting for the dance. Most of the items have brief annotations. (JM)

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A Bibliography of Stage Lighting

For the Dance

Compiled and Annotated

by

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American Theatre Planning Board Inc. Theatre Check List, Middletown, Conn. Wesleyan University Press, 1969.

This is a small book and for $4.95 one of the best sources for planning an overall facility. It can easily save you a thousand times its cost in both time and money.

Anon. Focus on Dance, Washington, D.C. American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, 1969.

Two short articles on dance sets and lighting, very basic and not any original suggestions for either the choreographer or the lighting designer.

Anon. "The effect of angle of light on the recognition and evaluation of forms." Lighting Design and Application (August, 1972) pp. 41-46.

A summary of research by members of the Illuminating Engineers. A good basic tool which proves, through research, concepts which many of us have held for years.

Anon. "Tom Skelton's Lighting is a primer for teaching and practice." Theatre Crafts VII, #3 (May/June 1973). pp. 16-23, 37.

A very general article concentrating on Skeltons dramatic lighting and touching on his teaching of light psychology and color. Tom Skelton is one of the better practitioners of the art.

Anon. "The Shapes of Space," Dance Perspectives XLI (Spring, 1970) pp. 1-49.

This issue is devoted to the Art of Mary Wigman & Oscar Schlemmer but Mavins Forces with some ideas still applicable today.

Anon. "Environments for the human figure." Theatre Crafts IV (Nov./Dec. 1970), pp. 8-15, 32.

An article-interview with Alwin Nikolois on his costume design. Anything Nik does has relevance for a dance lighting designer.

Anon. "The Dance" Theatre Crafts (Sept. 1973) Vol. 17 #4.

The general article but one of the few contemporary documents in staging of the dance. Any serious production person should subscribe to the Theatre Crafts for its contributions to the craft and access to new equipment and methods.

Arnheim, Rufolf, Art and Visual Perception. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1971.

A lot of very astute observations and examples. Arnhein pulls together a broad background and tons of information and examples into a single book. Easy to read and very good.

Baisent, H. Stage Lighting. Wellington, New Zealand Drama Council, 1949.

Bad, not worth the paper it is printed upon.

Bay, Howard, Stage Design. New York: Drama Book Shop, 1974.

A very funny very practical book. His short section on light is very good and provides information which is available nowhere else. Howard Bay is both a scenic and lighting designer and President of United Scenic Artists Local 829.

Bellman, Willard F. Lighting The Stage: Art and Practice. San Francisco: Chandler Publishing Company, 2nd ed. 1973.

Very theoretical, lots of pictures, graphs, etc. A very dry style of writing and a task to read. A very good book for theory background and equipment. Now out in an improved second edition which deals more with the how-to without getting formula-oriented.

Benke, Marjorie. "Painting the Stage Set with Light." Design 54 (Dec. 1952): 66.

A filler article not really worth a second glance.

Bentham, Frederick. The Art of Stage Lighting. New York: Taplinger Publishing Co., 1970.

Bentham is the grandaddy of British Lighting designers, all British practice good and bad springs from Bentham, he knows a lot and is able to put it across specifically concisely and still manages to be very human. The British terminology may be confusing.

Bonger, Emmet W. Practical Stage Lighting. New York: R. Rosen Press, 1971.

Some nice photos and decent drawings, but a sort of high school level stage craft book.

Bowman, Wayne. Modern Theatre Lighting. New York: Harper and Bros, 1958.

David Thayer of USITT says it has good line drawings but Rosenthal's book has better ones and any book on basic stage lighting is just as good.

Boyaton, R.M. and Boss, D.E. "The Effect of Background Luminance and Contrast Upon Visual Search Performance." The Journal of the Illuminating Engineering Society Vol. #66 April, 1971, pp. 173-186.

A great article but very technical - deals with visual performance in a controlled laboratory situation with definite applicability to to stage lighting.

Berris-Meyer, Harold and Cole, Edward C. Theatre and Auditoriums, 3rd Edition. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., 1975.

This third edition of an old read classic work is the book for planning and building performing spaces. No architect or Consultant I know is without it. Even at $25.00 it is cheap. This book gives you guidelines, questions, answers as well as feet and inches. Very good on equipment and spaces, but nothing on practice.

Brockett, Oscar G. The Theatre: An Introduction. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston 3rd ed., 1973.

Dr. Brockett is an historian but Dr. Gary Gieser of Indiana University helped with the lighting chapters. Gieser is one of the more solid designer teachers in the U.S.A. Brief and technical, but good.

Century Lighting Company, New York.

Their equipment catalogues are a mine of information regarding instruments and equipment.

Clay, James H, and Krempel, Daniel. The Theatrical Image. New York: McGraw Hill Book Co., Inc., 1967.

An interesting approach to the "why" of it all. No specifics on practice but some good thoughts on concept.

Cohen, Selma Jeanne, (ed). The Modern Dance. Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1966.

A series of articles, some chapters which are very good when you have to get into the head of a dancer. Choreographer informative, lively and interesting throughout.

Corry, Percy. Lighting the Stage. 2nd ed. London, Pitman, 1958.

No revelations, nothing new, half baked McCandless, warmed over Bentham and Williams: go to the original sources they are better and more readable. So-so overall.

Ellfeldt, Lois. Dance Production Handbook.

Carnes, Edwin, Palo Alto, National Press Books, 1971.

Good for a novice or just confused person but very elementary on light. However all people in production should have this book. It is really quite good overall.

Ellis, Havelock. The Dance of Life. New York: Modern Library, 1951.

Some history, some views, nothing deep or terribly relevant. Suzanne Langer does a better job and is a lot more stimulating. But it is a classic and is quite good.

Emmons, Beverly. "Lighting Modern Dance" Theatre Design and Technology, (October, 1970.) pp. 15-16.

Beverly Emmons is the designer for the Merce Cunningham Co. Her lighting has been hailed as some of the most creative in the field, any of her insights are valuable.

Fuchs,Theodore. Stage Lighting. Dostom: Little Brown & Co., 1929.

Many portions are somewhat outdated today, but there is much pure gold still to be found in it. It has a nice chapter on simple and home-built equipment.

Fucks, Theodore. Home Built Lighting Equipment for the Amateur Stage.

A step by step how to book on cheap lights and control for the handy-person. Very good on practice, but you need to know something about sheet metal and wood before starting construction. The chapter on control is outdated but overall it is the book on home built equipment.

Gassner, John. Producing the Play, rev. ed. New York: Holt, Rinehart, & Winston, Inc., 1953.

Contains a capsule survey of the field by one of Broadway's most successful lighting practitioners, Abe Feder: nice but dated.

General Electric Company. Cleveland, Lamp Bulletin. 1956.

Another fine publication on lamps.

General Electric Company. Cleveland, Fundamentals of Light and Lighting. 1956.

Excellent material on color, sources, and the behavior of light.

General Electric Company. Cleveland, Large Lamp Bulletin.

Almost a textbook on sources. Excellent illustrations.

Goffin, Peter. Stage Lighting for Amateurs London, F. Muller, 1938.

Just that, even considering even for its age, a poor book, it gives little solid information of use to the lighting artist.

Goffin, Peter. Stage Lighting for Amateurs 4th ed. London J.G. Miller, 1955.

So-so. The same comments apply to the book as the Percy Corry's Lighting the Stage.

Goodman, Saul. "Meet Jean Rosenthal", Dance Magazine pp. 19-23, Feb., 1962.

Jean Rosenthal invented dance lighting, this is a brief history of her work.

Gorelik, Mordecai. New Theatres for Old. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. Inc., 1940.

A history of the theatre from Saxe Menninger to Brecht, good for background and not much else.

Grahm, Robert. "On the Development of a Lighting Score." Impulse, pp. 13-18, 1952.

The first section of this article is another way of making up a cue sheet for dance lighting. The second part is on equipment and is outdated.

Heffner, Hubert, Selden, Samuel, and Sellman, Hunton. Modern Theatre Practice 5th ed. New York: Appleton Century-Crofts, 1972.

This book has become a classic. It is rather didactic and rules oriented but it remains a good text on lighting for beginners.

Horst, Louis and Russell Carroll. Modern Dance Forms in Relation to The Other Modern Arts. San Francisco: Impulse Publications, 1961.

This is one of those books that I suppose you should read. It is a classic in the field, but most of Horst's views have become so much a part of general knowledge in dance that the insights and theories no longer seem as powerful as when they were written.

Humphrey, Doris. The Art of Making Dances. New York: Grove Press, Inc., 1959.

Doris Humphrey not only made dances she also was a very articulate person in her art. One of the few good explanations of the personal art of dance.

Illuminating Engineering Society. I E S Lighting Handbook (5th ed) John E. Kaufman (ed) New York, 1972.

The basic bible for lighting of all types; very technical, but an absolute gold mine of information.

Jones, Robert Edmond. The Dramatic Imagination. New York: Theatre Arts Books, 1941.

I read this book once a year to remind myself of what I am about in the theatre and what this whole tinsel world really is, a sort of Johnathan Livingston Seagull of the theatre. Short and very beautiful.

Kook, Edward. Images in Light for the Living Theatre. New York: D.B.S. Publications Inc., 1963.

This is the most complete book on the applications by designers of projected scenery short on method but tons on opinion.

Nadel, Myron, and Nadel, Constance Gwen (eds). The Dance Experience. Washington: Pranger Publishers, 1973.

An excellent book or readings one of the best readable and informative throughout with nothing specific on lighting but lots of information on the dance itself, and that's what it is all about isn't it?

Navy Training Courses, Basic Electricity, (Naupers 10086-A) Gov't Printing Office, 1960.

A clear and simple presentation of the basics of electricity. Generally considered as one of the best texts in the field of electricity.

Neenan, Charles J. "Shadow Characteristics of Stage Lights for Theatre, Television and Motion Pictures." Illuminating Engineering Vol. 63.

This article is advanced, very technical and taught me more about shadow in one hour than I had learned in 5 years at fiddling with lights. You still need the fiddle time, but this article tells you what to look for and how to get it.

Olson, R. "Art In Lighting Design". Lighting Design and Application, Vol. 3 #1 Jan., 1973, pp. 12-15.

A general article calling for more Art in the field. Rather below the level of what is usual in this publication.

Palmer, Richard H. "Style in Lighting Design". E.T.J. Vol. 19 #2 (May, 1967) pp. 142-148.

A filler in a non-production magazine and not worth the paper which it is printed on.

Parker, N. Oren, and Smith, Harvey K. Scene Design and Stage Lighting 2nd ed. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.

The best single source in the English language on the titled subjects but is very heavy on equipment and theory. One page on dance which is a condensed Skelton.

Pilbrow, Richard. Stage Lighting. New York: Van Nostrand, Reinholt Co. 1970.

Pilbrow is one of the younger British designers. He has a lot of expertise, but the book doesn't hold together as well as one would hope. Still it is a very decent text. Some tips on methods such as cue graph plotting, that all of us do, but no one has set down until now. The book also contains exercises and examples for the lighting designer.

Roose-Evans, James. Experimental Theatre. New York: Universe Books, 1970.

Nice sections on Martha Graham and Alwin Nikolois mostly history philosophy readable and with good illustrations.

Rosenthal, Jean and Wertenbaker, Lael. The Magic of Light. Boston: Little Brown and Co.

Jean Rosenthal invented dance lighting as we know it today. This book doesn't tell you much about how but a lot about why and working methods. It also contains the basic plot for Martha Graham Co. for which Jeanie was the exclusive designer.

Rosenthal, Jean. "The Art and Language of Stage Lighting." Theatre Arts Magazine, pp. 17-19, 78. August 1961.

A very general article by Jean Rosenthal good for background, but not as specific as some of her other works.

Rosenthal, Jean. "Jean Rosenthal on Lighting Design." as a major element of Dance Presentation". New York Times, July 21, 1963. II p. 6 Col.

A filler article which contributes nothing to one's knowledge of stage lighting.

Rubin, Joel and Watson, Leland H. Theatrical Lighting Practice. New York: Theatre Arts Books, 1954.

A very good book considering its age. Both of these gentlemen are tops in their field (Rubin is V.P. of Kleigl Bros.) and Watson a practicing designer and the book is a tight well put together compendium of all the basic knowledge of the time. Good even after 20 years.

Sargeant, Winthrop. "Please, darling, bring three to seven," The New Yorker, 1956.

Cute article shows Jean's personality but gives only fleeting insights into her art.

Schuman, William. "Compose/Choreographer," Dance Perspectives XVI. Winter, 1962.

Selby, Lowndes, Joan. How a Ballet is Produced. London, Routledgeand Paul, 1958.

A KUTSIE 12-16 year old stuff--nothing on light.

Simonson, Lee. The Stage is Set. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co. 1932.

A history memoir of one of the new stagecraft crowd. Jones is better for me but Simonson is more specific.

Skelton, Tom. "Handbook of Dance Stagecraft" Dance Magazine 29-31 (Oct. 1955- March 1957).

Decent, but very basic. The suggestions are elementary, but necessary. Skelton, along with Jean Rosenthal has created modern dance lighting as we know it.

Skelton, Tom. "Rembrant and The Reginal Ballet", Dance Magazine pp. 54-55 June, 1960.

An excellent article by a fine practitioner of the art. Aimed to the choreographer, but good for all of us in the business.

Skirpan, Stephen. Professional Lighting Control. New York: Skirpan Electronics, 1968. 2nd Edition, 1976.

This is the basic catalog for Steve Skirpan's lighting equipment (and excellent equipment it is!). More than that it is also a clear concise explanation of control systems in both theory and practice.

Sondheimer, Hans. "Lighting for Opera and Ballet in Repertory", Theatre Crafts VII (Jan./Feb. 1973) pp. 12-15, 34-38.

A general article most of the German opera house - one shaft of light variety, not really very good.

Sorell, Walter (ed). The Dance Has Many Faces. New York: Columbia University Press (1966).

A series of statements, interviews, etc. of some of the most influential people in the modern dance scene.

Sorell, Walter. The Dance Through the Ages. New York: Grosset and Dunlap, 1967.

A general, but decent overview of the dance in all its forms and all its ages, lots of good pictures.

Tabs. This little magazine is brought out four times a year by Strand Electric and Engineering Co., Ltd., of London. It is available in this country from Strand Electric Co., 3201 N. Highway 100, Minneapolis, Minn., 55422.

Terry, Walter. The Dance in America. (Rev. ed.) New York: Harper and Row, 1971.

Another one of those anthologues, this time by company and region that help us understand each other a little better.

Theatre Crafts is published six times a year by Podale Press, Inc.

Subscription Office, 33 East Miner St. Emmaus, Penna. 18049.

A good slick magazine approach to design lighting problems--rather general at times but still good.

Theatre Design and Technology. The official journal of the U.S. Institute.

Theatre Technology is published four times a year. Circulation Manager 245 West 52nd St., New York, N.Y. 10019.

More technical and international in scope than Theatre Crafts. Quite good and specific on most practice. Heavy on architecture and theory at times.

Tipton, Jennifer. "Innovation in Lighting Design." Theatre Design and Technology, Oct. 1970, pp. 14-15.

Jennifer Tipton is the designer for Paul Taylor, Twyla Tharp and Jose Limon. This article briefly present some of her ideas on the use of light as well as the lighting artist's relation to the chareagrapher.

Wechsberg, Joseph. "The Right Light," The New Yorker, (Oct. 22, 1960) pp. 49-84.

About Abe Feder---Abe Feder lights everything the article is a sort of cheering for Abe with a couple of nice ideas buried along the way.

Wilfred, Thomas. Projected Scenery. New York: DPS Publications Inc. 1965.

The late Thomas Wilfred was the well head for projection from Linnebach to Clavalux the book is in outline form and is a workbook with just a little effect you can learn great amounts about the subject not available anywhere else.

Williams, Rollo Gillespie. "Some pertinent aspects of color in Theatre and Television Lighting," Illuminating Engineering Vol. 61 (May 1966) pp. 342-346.

Excellent article by one of our best color theorists.

Williams, Rollo G. The Technique of Stage Lighting. London: Pitman and Sons Ltd. 1952.

An earlier version of lighting for color and form. Very good for it's age more slanted toward equipment and drama lighting than it's later books.

Williams, R.G. Lighting for Color and Form. New York: Pitman, 1954.

An excellent book quite complete one of the best for color in English. His method allows creativity yet provides a very good basis for sound stage lighting of all kinds. I use his method since it provides discipline yet allows a broad freedom in design.